

## **Reflection**

### **Third Sunday of Easter**

### **May 4, 2025**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter Acts 5.27-32**

This passage highlights the apostles' courageous testimony before the Sanhedrin and their joyful suffering for Jesus' name.

I would want to dwell on the apostle's words, "We must obey God rather than men." Indeed, this manifests bravery, conviction, and joy in the face of persecution. The apostles were detained, threatened, and commanded to remain silent about Jesus. And yet, standing before the same religious officials who sentenced Jesus to death, they proclaim unequivocally, "We must obey God rather than men." The apostles were not preaching to strangers but to their religious leaders, community elders, and judges. Nonetheless, they took the harder route, not defying but remaining devoted. It reminds us that discipleship often entails choosing God's will even when it is unpopular, misunderstood, or rejected. We may not appear before a council today, but we are nonetheless under subtle temptation to compromise our faith—to be silent when we should speak, to conform rather than stand out. We, like the apostles, are called to exalt God's voice above all else.

What an undertaking for us. We frequently shun discomfort, criticism, or anything that could make our faith feel uneasy. However, the early Church reminds us that suffering for Christ is a badge of honor—participation in His mission. So, are we willing to obey God even if it comes at a cost? Do we mention Jesus when an opportunity occurs?